

To Mr. Kenneth R. Payne  
Chief, Marketing Program, Livestock  
And Seed Program  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agriculture Marketing Service

Relating to docket # LS-05-07  
December 2, 2005 announcement of the Federal Register pg. 72257

I am a soybean farmer in Hardin Co. Ohio. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the soybean check off program. The check off program has been a great asset to our country's soybean producers. It has helped to promote and increase the consumption of soybeans both domestically and over seas. Farmers have invested their own money in research to develop and market new uses for our own industry. This needs to continue into the future for soybean producers to have a viable economic future.

In order to improve the function of this program, to make it more responsive to producer needs and more transparent, it may be time for some changes to its structure. Some suggestions I have either heard or read that are worthy of consideration are as follows.

- 1, Directors should be elected by producers within their own states to make them more accountable to the producers they represent.
- 2, State QSSBs should have more control over all of the funds that are generated in their state for more state by state input and accountability for how funds are spent.
3. Making check off contributions refundable would add a layer of accountability directly to individual producers and would help avert some of the political and philosophical arguments against the check off.

Once again I thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion in favor of the soybean check off. I appreciate your consideration of changes to improve it and its viability into the future.

Sincerely,  
Mark Watkins  
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